

Missionary

PRESBYTERIAL HOME MISSION CONFERENCE.

By Rev. Bunyan McLeod.

The high water mark in home missions is yet to come. It is near at hand because the church is beginning to see its great importance. Up to a few years ago the church was only playing with home missions. And it has been the observation of the writer that the more vigorously home mission work is prosecuted, the fewer the mission fields become.

Home mission work is a work of faith, and hence many weak Christians have misgivings as to its success. Take the following illustration. Here is a town that gives excellent promise of growth and reaches its zenith in a few years. A panic comes on and the town begins to die. Many of its best and thriftiest settlers move away, and the little church planted in faith is compelled to close its doors. And some of you in passing criticism will say "what a waste of the Lord's money!" It is not a waste of money at all. Think of the influence that little church exerted—think of the souls it brought to Jesus Christ. There is no such thing as waste in work done for God.

And so we hail with delight the great educational campaign inaugurated by our worthy Home Mission Secretary, Dr. S. L. Morris. The Home Mission Committee of the Southern Presbyterian church has secured ex-Governor Glenn, of North Carolina, for this campaign, and we feel sure it will mean much to the cause of Home Missions in the Presbyterian church. The campaign will close at Anderson, S. C., with a three days' conference, beginning Sunday, May 16. On Sunday Governor Glenn will speak in the morning at Central and evening at the First Presbyterian Church. Monday and Tuesday will be given over to a Presbyterial conference on Home Missions, conducted by Governor Glenn, and we hope, Dr. S. L. Morris. We earnestly hope that every church in the South Carolina presbytery will send delegates to this conference. And let us not forget this conference in our morning and evening devotions, and let our united prayers be that it will be the beginning of great things for South Carolina presbytery and the Presbyterian church, U. S.

Anderson, S. C.

HOME MISSIONS IN THE PRESBYTERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

We have a number of weak, but promising and important churches in our southern section. Every one of them is now ministered to regularly by strong and acceptable preachers. Without a supplement from our treasury these good men could not be supported in their earnest work. One of these churches is a new organization on a new railroad in a town which is the county site of an opulent county, with forests of pine and other valuable timber, fertile valleys and healthful hills.

In addition to these organized churches we have a mission field. The Presbytery of Mississippi is responsible for it. On our eastern border is a new railroad already doing a large business. From the Pearl to the Mississippi another railroad crosses the entire width of our territory. From a point in northeast of our territory to the southwest, another road has been surveyed and capitalists are spending their money in preparations for building. These roads run through valleys and hills of boundless resources.

New towns and villages are being built and are attracting small clusters of industrious and thrifty people. Railroad junctions and shops, temporary saw mills and permanent lumber plants will be centers of good population. Presbyterian families have already moved into some of these promising communities. We must send our evangelist to hold meetings in these places and organize churches where it is necessary.

For the past two years we have had no regular evangelist. We have one now.

February is the month for our Home Mission collection. If every church will send promptly the amount apportioned (see printed minutes, October, 1908), we will be amply able to carry on our good work. Let us make a generous offering in February. Remit promptly.

S. C. Caldwell.

Hazlehurst, Miss.

CHRISTMAS IN THE TEXAS PRESBYTERIAN ORPHANS' HOME.

Another Christmas has come and gone and Santa Claus has made his rounds, scattering sunshine and happiness into the hearts of millions of children. But perhaps there is no place where his arrival was appreciated more than in the Presbyterian Home and School for Orphans, at Files, Texas.

This home is under the control of the synods of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas of the Presbyterian church, U. S., and is located on a high hill overlooking the little village of Files, and surrounded on all sides by beautiful farms of rich, black land.

It was the writer's good fortune to spend Christmas with the children in this home, and it was a happy day indeed. I arrived at the Home on the afternoon of the twenty-third, and found the superintendent and matron busily engaged in preparation for Santa Claus. For three days the large farm wagon had been busy hauling out boxes of express, and packages that had been sent for the children, which contained many nice gifts for the little orphans.

The happiest scene I have ever witnessed was Christmas morning when the little children arose bright and early, and rushed into the parlor to see what Santa Claus had brought. Throughout the entire building rang the chorus of happy voices mingled with the sound of horns, and harps, and the rattle of toys. Every child seemed to enjoy the day to its fullest capacity, and they were not alone. As I watched the little bright faces my heart went up to God in thanksgiving for what he had done for his helpless ones.

The next place we visited was the

chapel, where a nice Christmas tree had been arranged and loaded down with gifts for the children. Here Santa Claus made his appearance and captured the little crowd which swarmed around him, each shouting at the top of his voice, claiming recognition.

An interesting character in this home is a little three-year-old girl, who has been in the Home one year. She is one of a family of five children whose mother died and left them without anyone to help care for them except a father. This father is a ministerial student in Trinity University and for that reason the Home came to his relief in caring for his five helpless children, and made it possible for him to continue his college course. It was the mother's earnest request and prayer that her children be kept together and that the husband be permitted to finish his education and get into the larger work of the ministry. God has abundantly answered that prayer in opening the doors of this beautiful Home and school to these little children, and thus opening the way for the father in college.—Cumberland Presbyterian.

DALLAS HOME MISSIONS.

To the Pastors and Churches of Dallas Presbytery. My Dear Brethren: Your Home Mission Committee had to scale down the appropriations to our Home missionaries for the third quarter, and even then there was a very considerable deficit and we had to borrow from the bank. The bank will not continue to carry you unless you maintain your credit. Moreover, it means much embarrassment to our meagerly paid fourteen missionaries to have their salaries cut down.

February is the month for Local Home missions. Your committee cannot make bricks without straw, we can not pay these men you have employed unless you send us the money. The work calls loudly for further advance. God has given his people the means. Will you not come up to the help of the Lord's work? We need the assistance of every lover of Zion. Please take the offering in February and send to Prof. D. F. Eagleton, Sherman, Texas, who is Presbytery's treasurer.

Faithfully your servants,

The Home Mission Committee.

Jno. V. McCall, Chm.

READ THIS LETTER.

It Will Do You Good.

Athens, Ga., Jan. 15, 1909.

Editor of The Presbyterian of the South.

Your favor of — before me. Have only one hand—the left, and indeed, no other; lost my right arm twenty years ago. Have good vision from one eye only. Am now 85 years old; can read without glasses, and attend church once on Sabbath. Health and digestion good. Preached every Sabbath, unless in bed—no vacation. Have supplied usually two churches; have received hundreds into connection with the church. Preached in Athens and Augusta Presbyteries. Am waiting the Master's call, "Come home." Half of my family in Heaven; expect to be with them soon.

Your brother in Christ,

Henry Newton.